

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience and will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application. No claims are amended.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for a computer system comprising:  
opening a first file in an object environment running on the computer system, the first file including a specification of a first object;  
determining, from the specification of the first object, a reference to a second object;  
receiving a second file in response to the reference to the second object, the second file including a specification of the second object, the specification of the second object including information identifying a plurality of public attributes of the second object and a plurality of private attributes of the second object;  
opening the second file in the object environment;  
determining a modified value for a public attribute of the second object; and  
including, in the first file, the reference to the second object and the modified value for the public attribute of the second object;  
wherein the specification of the second object is not stored in the first file; and  
wherein values for the plurality of private attributes of the second object cannot be modified by users of the first file.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first file and the second file are stored on a storage system, and wherein the storage system is selected from a group consisting of: a network directory, an asset management system, and a database management system.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising geometrically coupling the first object to the second object in the object environment.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
determining, from the specification of the first object, a reference to a third object;  
receiving a third file in response to the reference to the third object, the third file  
including a specification of the third object, the specification of the third object including  
information identifying a plurality of public attributes of the third object and a plurality of  
private attributes of the third object;  
opening the third file in the object environment; and  
modifying a value for a public attribute of the third object from a default value to  
an override value stored in the first file.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
opening a third file in the object environment, the third file including a  
specification of a third object;  
determining, from the specification of the third object, a second reference to the  
second object;  
creating, in response to the second reference to the second object, a second  
instance of the second object in the object environment; and  
modifying a value for a public attribute of the second instance of the second  
object from a default value to an override value stored in the third file.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
modifying the specification of the second object to include an additional public  
attribute of the second object;  
storing the modified specification of the second object in the second file;  
reopening the first file in the object environment;  
determining, from the specification of the first object, the reference to the second  
object;  
receiving the second file in response to the reference to the second object, the  
second file including the modified specification of the second object;

opening the second file in the object environment;  
modifying a value for the additional public attribute of the second object in the object environment; and  
including, in the first file, the modified value for the additional public attribute.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:  
a storage system configured to store a first file including a specification of a first object and a second file including a specification of a second object, the specification of the second object including information identifying a plurality of public attributes of the second object and a plurality of private attributes of the second object; and  
a processor communicatively coupled with the storage system, wherein the processor is configured to:

open the first file in an object environment;  
determine, from the specification of the first object, a reference to the second object;  
determine, from the specification of the first object, a value for a public attribute of the second object;  
provide, to the storage system, the reference to the second object;  
receive the second file from the storage system;  
open the second file; and  
override a default value for the public attribute of the second object with the value determined from the specification of the first object;  
wherein the specification of the second object is not stored in the first file; and  
wherein values for the plurality of private attributes of the second object cannot be modified by users of the first file.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 8 wherein the storage system is selected from a group consisting of: a network directory, an asset management system, and a database management system.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 8 wherein the processor is further configured to:

- modify the value for the public attribute of the second object; and
- include the modified value for the public attribute of the second object in the first file.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 8 wherein the processor is further configured to geometrically manipulate the first object and the second object.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 8 wherein the storage system is further configured to store a third file including a specification of a third object, wherein the processor is further configured to:

- determine, from the specification of the first object, a reference to the third object;
- determine, from the specification of the first object, a value for a public attribute of the third object;
- provide, to the storage system, the reference to the third object;
- receive the third file from the storage system;
- open the third file; and
- override a default value for the public attribute of the third object with the value determined from the specification of the first object.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 8 wherein the processor is further configured to:

- determine, from the specification of the first object, another reference to the second object;
- determine, from the specification of the first object, another value for the public attribute of the second object;
- create another instance of the second object in the object environment; and

override a default value for the public attribute of the another instance of the second object with the another value determined from the specification of the first object.

14. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium for a computer system, the machine-readable medium having stored thereon a series of instructions which, when executed by a processing component, cause the processing component to:

create a first object in an object environment;

determine a reference to a specification of a second object stored in a storage system communicatively coupled to the processing component, the specification of the second object including information identifying a plurality of public attributes of the second object and a plurality of private attributes of the second object;

create an instance of the second object in the object environment;

determine a modified value for a public attribute of the second object; and

override a default value for the public attribute with the modified value;

wherein the public attribute of the second object stored in the storage system is not modified; and

wherein values for the plurality of private attributes of the second object cannot be modified by users of the first object.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the storage system is selected from a group consisting of: a directory server, a asset management server, and a database server.

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14 further including instructions that cause the processing component to:

create a first file including a specification of the first object, the reference to the specification of the second object in the storage system, and the modified value for the public attribute; and

provide the first file to the storage system for storage;

wherein the first file excludes the specification of the second object.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 14 further including instructions that cause the processing component to::

create an additional instance of the second object in the object environment;

determine a modified value for a public attribute of the additional instance of the second object; and

override a default value for the public attribute of the additional instance of the second object with the modified value.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the modified value for the public attribute of the instance of the second object and the modified value for the public attribute of the additional instance of the second object are different.

19 - 20. (Canceled)